

FEB 7 - 2014

Mark Nadel

FCC Office of the Secretary

From: Simpson, Paul A. <paul@lmisd.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 6:10 PM
To: Mark Nadel
Subject: La Marque ISD Waiver of Deadline for Form 471 Deadline 2013

CC Docket No 02-6
application
935167

Hello,

As stated in our original letter to the FCC for waiver of deadline for Form 471, by the time it was realized that person responsible for e-rate submissions may not return to work for medical reasons, the deadline had already lapsed by nearly 3 weeks, unbeknownst to anyone at La Marque Independent School District. By the time his duties were reassigned and catchup on his work had begun another week went by before we discovered the form 471 deadline had been missed, via an e-mail from e-rate support services. In the email a link for the appeal pointed to a page without any information for "petition for waivers" of deadline; the USAC website only contained appeal process for decisions. We did find information concerning the FCC petition process in the same email, but it said to contact David Behar via the email address provided for support. He was reached over the phone over the course of the next few days. And it's my understanding that he attempted to correct our ability to finish Form 471 online, but was unsuccessful. We were told we would need to file an appeal for deadline with USAC before we could finish our Form 471. About another week passed and we could not find anywhere on USAC's website to appeal for deadline. After which, we called USAC directly and were then instructed to submit a hardcopy Form 471 via mail and mail an appeal letter to USAC Schools and Libraries Program Correspondence Unit; this occurred about the first week in May. The technology director retired April 30th and was in and out of work a fair amount of April, related to his recent and ongoing illness.

The last month of school (May) is a very busy time for everyone in our school district, and no one had ever filled out a Form 471 before, besides the previous technology director who was unavailable. Additionally, we were starting the process of consolidating all of our elementary schools and our secondary schools. Between making sure we had the proper 21 attachments, all other required information and reviewed it prior to submission it was already June. With the submission of the Form 471 we submitted a letter for waiver for deadline to USAC as instructed by USAC. We were also told to wait for a decision on the waiver request. After not hearing back from USAC for nearly 2 months about our waiver status, we called them and they informed us to file a waiver with the FCC. Finally, in August 2013, we submitted our request for waiver to the FCC.

Thank you,
Paul Simpson
Technology Coordinator
La Marque ISD

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